

## What to Do if an Emergency/Disaster Strikes

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- If the disaster occurs near you, be prepared to give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- If the emergency occurs while you are at home, check for damage using a flashlight. Do not light matches or candles or turn on electrical switches.
- Check for fires, electrical and other household hazards. Be aware that spilled bleaches, gasoline and other liquids may produce deadly fumes when chemicals mix, or be a fire hazard. If possible, get advice from the local fire department on how to clean up spilled liquids, especially if there are noxious fumes.
- Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly.
- Shut off any other damaged utilities. Know in advance how to shut off all utility valves and the electricity.
- Make plans for your pets if you need to evacuate. Do not leave them outside. If you do not need to evacuate, confine or secure your pets (they're frightened, too, and may run away or bite someone).
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.
- Call your family contact — do not use the telephone thereafter unless it is a life-threatening emergency.
- If Children are in School During a Disaster or Emergency:
  - Check the local media for announcements about changes in school openings and closings. Parents can always pick up their children during the school day, but sometimes the safest place might be the school itself. For older children who self-transport, ask them to follow the instructions of authorities.
- Look to Your Neighbors:
  - Working with neighbors can save lives and property. Know your neighbors' skills (i.e., medical, technical) and consider how you can help neighbors with special needs, such as disabled or elderly persons. Make plans for childcare in case parents can't get home.